

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-07 FEA-01 /063 W

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P R 181047Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 101

INFO COMIDEASTFOR

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0059

DEPT PASS OTHER MILITARY ADDRESSEES AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : OCLR PFOR MPOL QA US

SUBJECT : COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF QATARI ARMED FORCES RAISES

QUESTION ABOUT CLEARANCE FOR USS LA SALLE VISIT

BECAUSE OF SECRETARY'S BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW.

REF: DOHA 55 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF QATARI ARMED FORCES HAS
RAISED QUESTION RE CLEARANCE FOR US NAVAL SHIP VISIT TO QATAR
IN LIGHT OF SECRETARY'S AND OTHER US STATEMENTS RE POSSIBLE
INTERVENTION IN AREA. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JAN 18 I CALLED ON COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF
QATARI ARMED FORCES, SHAYKH HAMAD BIN KHALIFA AL THANI (THE
AMIR'S SON), TO INFORM HIM OF OUR REQUEST TO FOREIGN
MINISTRY FOR CLEARANCE FOR USS LA SALLE VISIT FEB 24-26 (REFTEL).
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(ALTHOUGH CLEARANCE GRANTED THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY, GOQ ARMED

FORCES RESPONSIBLE FOR OPERATIONAL DETAILS OF NAVAL SHIP VISITS.)

3. SHAYKH HAMAD STATED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO RAISE MATTER WITH THE AMIR IN LIGHT OF SECRETARY'S BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW AND OTHER RECENT STATEMENTS BY US OFFICIALS ABOUT POSSIBLE US MILITARY INTERVENTION AGAINST OIL PRODUCING STATES. ACCORDING SHAYKH HAMAD, NORMALLY REQUEST WOULD RECEIVE ROUTINE APPROVAL, AND HE SPECIFIED THAT IF IT WERE "BRITISH OR FRENCH SHIP" THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM; HOWEVER, RECENT STATEMENTS FROM US OFFICIALS WHICH HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED AS THREATS AGAINST STATES IN THIS AREA MADE MATTER A SENSITIVE ONE WHICH AMIR WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE. HAMAD SAID PEOPLE OF QATAR COULD REACT ADVERSELY TO US NAVAL VISIT IN THIS ATMOSPHERE. HE OPINED THAT HE THOUGHT AMIR WOULD MOST CERTAINLY APPROVE CLEARANCE REQUEST, BUT MATTER MUST GO TO HIM FOR DECISION.

4. I TOLD SHAYKH HAMAD THAT I REGRETTED THAT MY AND SENATOR PERCY'S RECENT EXPLANATIONS RE THE SECRETARY'S BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW HAD OBVIOUSLY NOT RPT BEEN CONVINCING. (HAMAD ATTENDED LUNCH WITH SENATOR PERCY DURING WHICH SUBJECT DISCUSSED-- DOHA 47.) HAMAD REPLIED THAT THIS WAS NOT NECESSARILY THE CASE, BUT THAT PUBLIC OPINION ASPECTS HAD TO BE CONSIDERED HERE RE US SHIP VISIT IN LIGHT OF RECENT STATEMENTS ON POSSIBLE US INTERVENTION IN AREA. HE SAID HE WAS SPEAKING FRANKLY TO ME AS FRIEND OF US SO THAT WE WOULD HAVE CLEAR IDEA OF IMPACT OF US STATEMENTS IN THIS COUNTRY.

5. IN SEPARATE MEETING WITH GOQ FOREIGN MINISTER SHAYKH SUHAYM BIN HAMAD AL THANI EARLIER SAME DAY, I MENTIONED OUR REQUEST FOR LA SALLE CLEARANCE TO SUHAYM AND ASKED THAT CLEARANCE BE EXPEDITED. SUHAYM REPLIED THAT HE WOULD GIVE HIS ATTENTION TO MATTER AND HOPED TO GIVE US ANSWER IN NEXT DAY OR TWO. ALTHOUGH SUHAYM DID NOT MENTION ALLEGED US THREATS OF INTERVENTION IN AREA IN CONNECTION WITH CLEARANCE REQUEST, HE WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF US POLICY STANCE IN AREA AND IN THIS CONTEXT MENTIONED "THREATS" AGAINST OIL PRODUCERS (SEPTTEL).

6. COMMENT: I EXPECT THAT CLEARANCE WILL EVENTUALLY BE GRANTED UNLESS ANOTHER STATEMENT OR ACTION SUCH AS US TASK FORCE MANEUVERS IN AREA OCCUR TO KEEP POT BOILING ON THIS
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ISSUE. HAMAD'S COMMENTS ARE AGAIN INDICATIVE OF DEEP CONCERN HERE OVER ALLEGED US INTERVENTION THREATS.
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